

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

June 16, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. CEM, INC. and RAJ CHOPRA

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today a three-count Indictment, charging Raj Chopra, age 40, of 1043 West River Parkway, Grand Island, NY 14072, and his company, Cem, Inc. with two counts of making false statements to the EPA and one count of conspiracy to do so, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1001, which each carry a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (**Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)**).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin J. Littlefield stated that the Indictment charges the defendant with falsely certifying to the New York State Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency that certain students had taken EPA mandated asbestos worker courses when in fact they had not attended such a course.

The Indictment was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division under the direction of William Lometti and the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agency in Charge, Peter Ahearn.

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